

1                                   **HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21**

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4                                   (By Delegate Perry)  
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6                   Designating February 14, 2011, as "Corrections Day".

7                   WHEREAS, It is the mission of the West Virginia Division of  
8                   Corrections to provide a safe, secure and humane correctional  
9                   system for the public, staff and offenders; and

10                  WHEREAS, The adult correctional population continues to expand  
11                  and it is important for agency representatives and policymakers to  
12                  appreciate the nature and magnitude of the growth; and

13                  WHEREAS, West Virginia was ranked 34th in the nation in 2007,  
14                  with an incarceration rate of 333 per 100,000 residents. That  
15                  between 2000 and 2006, West Virginia had the fastest growing prison  
16                  population in the nation; and

17                  WHEREAS, Commitments to the Division of Corrections grew by  
18                  21.9% in 2007, resulting in 3,449 new inmates and that parole  
19                  violators comprised a high of 14.0% of all new commitments in 2007;  
20                  and

21                  WHEREAS, In 2007, only 4.9% of all parole violators were  
22                  returning due to the commission of a new crime. That in 2006, 75.9%  
23                  of new admissions were for nonviolent crimes; and

24                  WHEREAS, As of December 2007, West Virginia's correctional  
25                  population was almost two and one-half times its size in 1995. In  
26                  2007 property offenders comprised the largest group of inmates  
27                  confined in the total prison population at 19.2%. That between 2000

1 and 2004, 37.1% of inmates were released on parole compared to  
2 51.5% between 2005 and 2007 so over half (54.8%) of all inmates  
3 released in 2007 were granted parole. Therefore, the parole grant  
4 rates increased by 9.0% between 2006 and 2007; and

5 WHEREAS, West Virginia's correctional population is forecasted  
6 to increase at an average annual growth rate of 5.6% over the next  
7 decade and according to the forecast, the Division of Corrections  
8 can expect to receive approximately 430 additional inmates per  
9 year. Therefore, the correctional population is expected to reach  
10 8,530 inmates in 2012 and 10,304 in 2017; and

11 WHEREAS, The information provided in this resolution will  
12 assist public officials and agency representatives in planning for  
13 the future and developing policies for the management of the West  
14 Virginia correctional population as well as providing adequate pay,  
15 benefits, and a safe secure workplace for the employees in the  
16 correctional system; therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the House of Delegates:*

18 That the House of Delegates hereby designates February 14,  
19 2011, as "Corrections Day"; and, be it

20 *Further Resolved,* That the House of Delegates recognizes the  
21 exceptional service and commitment of the employees of the Division  
22 of Corrections; and, be it

23 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates  
24 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the  
25 Division of Corrections.